

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITIES

How can Spanish benefit me?

By learning a foreign language you open your future to a world of opportunities. Draw a window. Create four windowpanes. Write in each pane areas of life, discussed in the brochures, in which your knowledge of Spanish can be an asset.

Answer the following short answer questions.

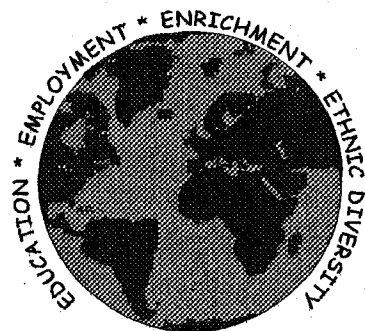
1. According to the 2000 Census, what percent of Kentucky's 4 million citizens are of Hispanic/Latino heritage? _____
2. How many of Kentucky's citizens speak Spanish as their primary language? _____
3. How many classes of a foreign language are required in KY high schools? _____
4. List one career of interest to you and explain how a knowledge of the Spanish language and culture could help you in this chosen profession.

5. Explain how learning Spanish can improve your knowledge of English?

6. List the top five languages spoken in Kentucky schools. _____
_____, _____, _____, _____
7. What three states have the largest percentage of Hispanic residents?

8. List three good reasons why students should study Spanish.

OPEN THE WINDOW TO YOUR WORLD



LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Demographers confirm that 12 million new arrivals in the U.S. in the past decade exceed the largest previous influx of 10 million immigrants, which occurred between 1905 and 1914. What Kentucky educator ten years ago could have predicted that there would be 82 foreign languages spoken in Kentucky classrooms? Nearly 6,000 students with limited English skills are enrolled in schools all across the state.

Spanish-speakers contribute to this diversity as 2,419 of these students speak Spanish as their native language. The second most common language, spoken by 571 of these students, is Bosnian, and Vietnamese is spoken by 330 as their first language. Japanese and Arabic are the fourth and fifth most popular languages spoken by Kentucky students.

According to the 2000 Census, with a population of 31,337,122, Hispanics are the second-largest minority group in the United States. The African-American population of 34,862,169 is the largest minority group. At 34.4%, California has the largest percentage of Hispanics, while Texas is a close second at 34%. Florida has the third largest Hispanic population. Even in Kentucky, over 35,000 speak Spanish as their native language. In fact, nearby Wayne County has the second largest increase of Hispanics of any Kentucky county.

Thus, there is a great demand for persons with knowledge of foreign languages and cultures across our states and communities. Open your window to the world of foreign language and see your future unfold.

REFERENCES

Eastern Kentucky University Foreign Language Programs.

Kentucky Teacher. May 2001.

Modern Language Association.

Northern Kentucky University.

University of Louisville.

U.S. Census 2000

EDUCATION

More than ever before, knowledge of foreign languages and cultures is vital to the well-being of our community and country as we are becoming increasingly dependent on foreign labor and trade. More than a decade ago, only three percent of U.S. high school graduates and five percent of U.S. college graduates could speak a foreign language. In fact, the U.S. was the only country in the world where high school and college students were not required to study a foreign language.

The changing times, however, have brought new regulations; for example, Kentucky now requires every high school student to have two foreign language classes in order to graduate. Colleges and universities in the state now demand that students take two classes of a foreign language as well. Also, it is a full-fledged part of the curriculum of many disciplines, including engineering, business, law, medicine, and human resources.

Studying a foreign language not only allows students to expand their knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and culture, but it also paves the way for exciting international and global opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT

Today's job market is difficult, but if applicants know a foreign language they improve their chance of obtaining their desired job. If you have ever considered an occupation in law enforcement, social services, medicine, law, business, architectural design, electronics, or communications you can multiply your chances for success and promotions if you know a second language. Since many businesses work closely with companies in other countries, they need workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures.

A real advantage to your career, knowing a foreign language can enable you to travel, exchange information, and obtain new clients and customers in other countries. In fact, the USA's trade partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement are Canada (bilingual English and French) and Mexico (Spanish). In addition, professional-level jobs are opening up in Mexico for North American college graduates, while schools, government agencies, and businesses are looking for employees who can speak Spanish. Learn a foreign language--it will impress your employer and enhance your future.

ENRICHMENT

Besides being an education requirement and broadening career opportunities, knowledge of another language and culture allows persons to expand their horizon, become responsible citizens, and contribute to one's own community and country as the existing language barrier is gradually eliminated.

The ability to converse in another language about food, family, education, politics, and social functions not only brings personal satisfaction, but it is also an excellent way to prove one's comprehension of people and cultures while developing a new appreciation of one's own culture.

When students learn another language, not only do they become more proficient in their native language, but it makes learning other languages easier. Studies have shown that math and verbal scores increase on the ACT and SAT tests with each year of learning a second language.

Studying a foreign language also improves your ability to think and reason, which will also improve your chances for success in school and in your career. Envision success and enrich your life; learn a second language!